6. Division method according to Claim 5, characterised in that distortions in the representation of the signal are emphasized.

7. Method of dividing a digital signal representing physical quantities, characterised in that it includes the steps of:

- determining (S1) at least one area of interest in the signal,

- determining (S20) an initial partitioning of the signal, including partitioning areas,

- modifying (S22, S24, S26) the partitioning of the signal according to said at least one area of interest and a predetermined criterion.

8. Division method according to Claim 7, characterised in that the partitioning of the signal is modified so that said at least one area of interest is not shared between two partitioning areas.

9. Division method according to Claim 7 or 8, characterised in that the partitioning of the signal is modified so that the partitioning areas are the smallest possible in order to satisfy the predetermined criterion.

10. Division method according to any one of Claims 7 to 9, characterised in that the partitioning of the signal includes blocks of samples of the signal, and in that the modification of the partitioning includes the modification (S22, S24, S26) of at least one parameter chosen from amongst a block height (H) and a block width (L).

11. Division method according to any one of Claims 7 to 10, characterised in that the modification of the partitioning includes a translation of the partitioning with respect to the signal.

12. Division method according to any one of Claims 7 to 11, characterised in that the modification of the partitioning results in a modified partitioning which is selected from a predetermined set of partitionings.

5   13. Method of coding a digital signal representing physical quantities, characterised in that it includes the division method according to any one of Claims 1 to 12.

14. Device for dividing a digital signal representing physical

10   quantities, characterised in that it has:

- means (31) of determining an initial partitioning of the signal,

- means (310) of displaying a representation of the signal and the previously determined signal partitioning,

- means (31) of acquiring at least one partitioning modification

15   parameter,

- means (31) of modifying the partitioning of the signal.

15. Division device according to Claim 14, characterised in that the determination means are adapted to form a partitioning of the signal which

20   includes blocks of samples of the signal, and in that the acquisition means are adapted to consider said at least one modification parameter from amongst a block height (H) and a block width (L).

16. Division device according to Claim 14 or 15, characterised in

25   that the acquisition means are adapted to consider a modification parameter making it possible to translate the partitioning with respect to the signal.

17. Division device according to any one of Claims 14 to 16, characterised in that the means of modifying the partitioning are adapted to

30   select a modified partitioning which is in a predetermined set of partitionings.

18. Division device according to any one of Claims 14 to 17, characterised in that it also includes means of simulating the coding an decoding of the signal and in that the displayed representation of the signal is

5 the result of the means of simulating.

19. Division device according to Claim 18, characterised in that it is adapted to emphasize distortions in the representation of the signal.

10 20. Division device (10) according to any one of Claims 14 to 19, characterised in that the determination, display, acquisition and modification means are incorporated in:

- a microprocessor (100),

- a read only memory (102) containing a program for processing

15 the data, and

- a random access memory (103) containing registers adapted to record variables modified during the running of said program.

21. Device for dividing a digital signal representing physical

20 quantities, characterised in that it has:

- means (31) of determining at least one area of interest in the signal,

- means (32) of determining an initial partitioning of the signal, including partitioning areas,

25 - means (32) of modifying the partitioning of the signal according to said at least one area of interest and a predetermined criterion.

22. Division device according to Claim 21, characterised in that it is adapted to modify the partitioning of the signal so that said at least one area

30 of interest is not shared between two partitioning areas.

23. Division device according to Claim 21 or 22, characterised in that it is adapted to modify the partitioning of the signal so that the partitioning areas are as small as possible in order to satisfy the predetermined criterion.

5   24. Division device according to any one of Claims 21 to 23, characterised in that the means of determining an initial partitioning are adapted to form a partitioning which includes blocks of samples of the signal, and in that the means of modifying the partitioning are adapted to modify at least one parameter chosen from amongst a block height (H) and a block width

10   (L).

25. Division device according to any one of Claims 21 to 24, characterised in that the means of modifying the partitioning are adapted to effect a translation of the partitioning with respect to the signal.

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26. Division device according to any one of Claims 21 to 25, characterised in that the means of modifying the partitioning are adapted to select a modified partitioning which is in a predetermined set of partitionings.

20   27. Division device (10) according to any one of Claims 21 to 26, characterised in that the determination and modification means are incorporated in:

        - a microprocessor (100),

        - a read only memory (102) containing a program for processing

25   the data, and

        - a random access memory (103) containing registers adapted to record variables modified during the running of said program.

        28. Device (3) for coding a digital signal representing physical

30   quantities, characterised in that it includes the division device according to any one of Claims 14 to 27.

29. Digital signal processing apparatus, characterised in that it has means adapted to implement the method according to any one of Claims 1 to 13.

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30. Digital signal processing apparatus, characterised in that it includes the device according to any one of Claims 14 to 28.

31. Storage medium storing a program for implementing a method according to any one of claims 1 to 13.

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32. Storage medium according to claim 31, characterised in that said storage medium is detachably mountable on a device according to any one of claims 14 to 28.

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33. Storage medium according to claim 32, characterised in that said storage medium is a floppy disk or a CD-ROM.